

That which is claimed is:

1. A method of screening for compounds that inhibit the virulence of *Pseudomonas* bacteria, comprising the steps of:

5 providing a culture medium comprising *Pseudomonas* bacteria;
 administering a test compound to said bacteria; and then
 detecting the presence or absence of inhibition of the catabolite repression control (Crc) protein in said bacteria, the inhibition of the Crc protein indicating said compound has antivirulence activity against *Pseudomonas* bacteria.

10 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said *Pseudomonas* bacteria is selected from the group consisting of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Pseudomonas multivorans*, *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, and *Pseudomonas putida*.

15 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said *Pseudomonas* bacteria is *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

20 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein:
 said culture medium contains an amidase operon repressor;
 said culture medium contains fluoroacetamide in an amount toxic to said bacteria in the absence of said amidase operon repressor; and
 said detecting step is carried out by detecting the poisoning of said bacteria by said fluoroacetamide, wherein the poisoning of said bacteria by said fluoroacetamide indicates said test compound has antivirulence activity against *Pseudomonas* bacteria.

25 5. The method according to claim 4, wherein said amidase operon repressor is selected from the group consisting of Krebs cycle intermediates and acetate.

30 6. The method according to claim 4, wherein said amidase operon repressor is succinic acid.

7. The method according to claim 4, wherein said step of detecting the poisoning of said bacteria is carried out by detecting cell death or inhibition of cell growth.

5 8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said test compound is a member of a combinatorial library.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein said test compound is an oligonucleotide.

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10. An antisense oligonucleotide that inhibits expression of the Crc protein in a *Pseudomonas* bacteria, wherein said antisense oligonucleotide comprises from 8 to 80 nucleotides and is nuclease resistant.

15 11. The antisense oligonucleotide according to claim 10 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. A method of inhibiting the virulence of *Pseudomonas* bacteria, comprising administering to *Pseudomonas* bacteria an antisense oligonucleotide
20 according to claim 10 in an effective antivirulence amount.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein said administering step is carried out *in vitro*.

25 14. A method according to claim 12, wherein said administering step is carried out *in vivo*.

15. A method of treating *Pseudomonas* infection in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to said subject an antisense oligonucleotide according to
30 claim 10 in an amount effective to treat said *Pseudomonas* infection.